

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1 through 25 (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A composite body, comprising:

a carrier, said carrier ~~comprising~~ having a thermoplastic polymer consisting essentially of at least one of a natural thermoplastic polymer and a polymer blend of a natural thermoplastic polymer with a synthetic thermoplastic polymer; and
at least two decorative layers pressed into and bonded with said carrier without the use of glue, said decorative layers made from a natural material, said decorative layers partially covering or overlapping each other; and
an additional layer disposed between said carrier and said decorative layers, said additional layer consisting essentially of at least one of a fleece, an interlacing, a woven fabric, a knitted fabric and a plaited material, wherein said additional layer is permeated with said thermoplastic polymer and said thermoplastic polymer is bonded to but does not bleed through said decorative layers.

27. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 26, wherein said carrier comprises a natural polymer based on lignin.

28. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 26, wherein said carrier comprises at least one of polyolefine, polyamide, polyester, polyacetate, polycarbonate, polyurethane, vinylpolymer and a copolymer of the preceding.

29. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 26, wherein said carrier comprises a natural polymer based on lignin.
30. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 26, wherein said carrier further comprises natural fiber reinforcement.
31. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 30, wherein said natural fiber reinforcement comprises at least one of hemp, cellulose and wood fibers.
32. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 26, wherein at least one decorative layer comprises a wooden veneer.
33. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 26, wherein at least one decorative layer comprises natural fibers selected from the group consisting of a fleece, an interlacing, a woven fabric, a knitted fabric, and a plaited material.
34. cancelled.
35. (currently amended) The composite body of ~~claim 34~~claim 26, wherein said at least one of said fleece, said interlacing, said woven fabric, said knitted fabric, and said plaited material consists essentially of natural fibers.
36. (previously presented) The composite body of claim 35, wherein said natural fibers are hemp fibers.

37. (previously presented) A method for using the composite body of claim 26, the method comprising the step of covering floors therewith.
38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said floor covering is a parquet floor covering.
39. (previously presented) A method for using the composite body of claim 26, the method comprising paneling at least one of walls and ceilings therewith.
40. (previously presented) A method for using the composite body of claim 26, the method comprising inlaying works therewith.
41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said inlaid works comprise tarsia.
42. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said inlaid works comprise visible sides of at least one of furniture, musical instruments, housings, interior paneling and fittings of automotive vehicles.
43. (currently amended) A method for producing the composite body of claim 26, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) preparing a carrier, said carrier having a thermoplastic polymer consisting essentially of at least one of a natural thermoplastic polymer and a polymer blend of a natural thermoplastic polymer with a synthetic thermoplastic polymer;

b) arranging a plurality of decorative layers to partially overlap or cover one another; ~~and~~
c) disposing a fiber layer between said decorative layers and said carrier; and
~~e) d)~~ pressing, at increased pressure and temperature, said decorative layers, said fiber layer, and ~~into~~ said carrier ~~following step b)~~ to bond said decorative layers to said carrier without the use of glue, wherein said thermoplastic polymer melts, is pressed through said fiber layer, and bonds with but does not bleed through said decorative layers.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said decorative layers are inserted into a hot press, the carrier is disposed thereon, and said decorative layers are pressed together into a surface of said carrier by closing said press.
45. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein a pressing force is between 40 and 400 bar.
46. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein a pressing temperature is between 120 and 180°C.
47. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein a pressing depth of said decorative layers substantially corresponds to a thickness of said decorative layers.
48. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein a pressing depth of said decorative layers is smaller than a thickness thereof.

- 49. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said plurality of decorative layers are inserted into a hot press and are pressed together with said carrier.
- 50. cancelled.
- 51. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising embossing a surface structure on at least one decorative layer.
- 52. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said carrier is mixed with natural reinforcing fibers.
- 53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said natural reinforcing fibers are selected from the group consisting of hemp, cellulose, and wood fibers.